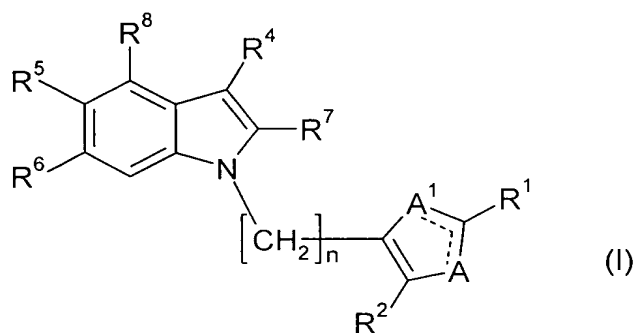


CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula



wherein

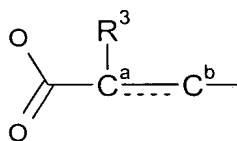
R¹ is aryl or heteroaryl;

R² is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R³ is aryloxy, alkenyloxy, alkoxy or alkoxy substituted with one to three halogen atoms;

R⁴ is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl;

wherein any one of R⁵ and R⁶ is



and the other is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl and, wherein the bond between the carbon atoms C^a and C^b is a carbon carbon single or double bond;

R⁷ is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl;

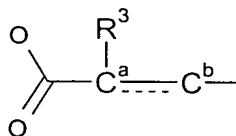
R⁸ is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl;

wherein any one of A and A' is nitrogen and the other is oxygen or sulfur;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein
 R^3 is alkoxy or alkoxy substituted with one to three halogen atoms;
 R^5 is



wherein the bond between the carbon atoms C^a and C^b is a carbon carbon single or double bond;

R^6 is hydrogen;

R^7 is hydrogen;

R^8 is hydrogen;

A is oxygen or sulfur; and

A^1 is nitrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

3. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is thiophenyl or phenyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, alkoxy, alkyl and alkyl substituted with one to three halogen atoms.

4. The compound according to claim 3, wherein R^1 is thiophenyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from fluoro, chloro, methoxy, ethoxy, propyloxy, isopropyloxy, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, tert.-butyl, and trifluoromethyl.

5. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

6. The compound according to claim 5, wherein R^2 is methyl.

7. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is methoxy, ethoxy, propyloxy, isopropyloxy, phenoxy or butenyloxy.

8. The compound according to claim 7, wherein R^3 is methoxy or ethoxy.

9. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is hydrogen.
10. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is methyl.
11. The compound according to claim 1, wherein the bond between the carbon atoms C^a and C^b is a carbon carbon single bond.
12. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^6 is hydrogen.
13. The compound according to claims 1, wherein R^7 is hydrogen.
14. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^7 is methyl.
15. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^8 is hydrogen.
16. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^8 is methyl.
17. The compound according to claim 1, wherein A is oxygen or sulfur and A^1 is nitrogen.
18. The compound according to claim 17, wherein A is oxygen.
19. The compound according to claim 1, wherein n is 1.
20. The compound according to claim 1 which is
(S)-3-{1-[2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid.
21. The compound according to claim 1 which is
(S)-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid.

22. The compound according to claim 1 which is
(S)-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[5-methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid.
23. The compound according to claim 1 which is
(S)-3-{1-[2-(3,5-Dimethoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid.
24. The compound according to claim 1 which is
(S)-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-fluoro-3-methyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid.
25. The compound according to claim 1 which is
rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{3-methyl-1-[5-methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid.
26. The compound according to claim 1 which is
rac-3-{1-[2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid.
27. The compound according to claim 1 which is
rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-fluoro-3-methyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid.
28. The compound according to claim 1 which is
rac-3-{1-[5-Methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-propoxy-propionic acid.
29. The compound according to claim 1 which is
rac-2-Isopropoxy-3-{1-[5-methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid.

30. The compound according to claim 1 which is
rac-2-But-3-enyloxy-3-{1-[5-methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-
1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid.

31. The compound according to claim 1 which is
rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-4-methyl-1H-
indol-5-yl}-propionic acid.

32. The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:
rac-2-Ethoxy-3-[1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl]-propionic acid;
(S)-2-Ethoxy-3-[1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl]-propionic acid;
rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-
propionic acid;
rac-3-{1-[2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-
propionic acid;
rac-2-Ethoxy-3-[1-(5-methyl-2-o-tolyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl]-propionic acid;
rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-
propionic acid;
rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(2-isopropoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-
propionic acid;
rac-3-{1-[2-(3-Chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-
propionic acid;
rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-ethyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-
propionic acid; and
(S)-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-ethyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-
propionic acid

33. The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:
(R)-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-ethyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-
propionic acid;
rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-
propionic acid;

rac-3-{1-[2-(4-tert-Butyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;
 rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;
 rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[5-methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;
 rac-3-{1-[2-(3,5-Dimethyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;
 rac-3-{1-[2-(3,5-Dimethoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;
 rac-3-{1-[2-(3,5-Difluoro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;
 rac-3-{1-[2-(3,5-Dichloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid; and
 rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-fluoro-3-methyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid.

34. The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

rac-2-Ethoxy-3-[1-(5-methyl-2-thiophen-2-yl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl]-propionic acid;
 rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;
 rac-2-Ethoxy-3-[1-(2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl]-propionic acid;
 rac-2-Ethoxy-3-[1-(2-phenyl-thiazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl]-propionic acid;
 rac-2-Ethoxy-3-[1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-thiazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl]-propionic acid;
 rac-3-{1-[2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-thiazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;
 (Z)-2-Methoxy-3-[1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl]-acrylic acid;
 rac-2-Methoxy-3-[1-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl]-propionic acid;
 (Z)-2-Methoxy-3-{1-[2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-acrylic acid; and

rac-2-Methoxy-3-{1-[2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid.

35. The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-3-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;

rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{2-methyl-1-[5-methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;

rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-2-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;

rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-fluoro-3-methyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-2-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;

rac-3-{1-[2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-2-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

rac-2-Ethoxy-3-[2-methyl-1-(2-phenyl-thiazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl]-propionic acid;

rac-3-{1-[2-(4-tert-Butyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-2-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

rac-3-{1-(5-Methyl-2-o-tolyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-propoxy-propionic acid;

rac-3-{1-[2-(2-Methoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-propoxy-propionic acid; and

rac-3-{1-[5-Methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-phenoxy-propionic acid.

36. The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

rac-3-{1-[2-(4-Isopropyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-phenoxy-propionic acid;

rac-3-{1-[2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-phenoxy-propionic acid;

rac-3-{1-[2-(4-Fluoro-3-methyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-phenoxy-propionic acid;

rac-2-Isopropoxy-3-[1-(5-methyl-2-o-tolyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl]-propionic acid;

rac-2-Isopropoxy-3-{1-[2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;
 rac-3-{1-[2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-isopropoxy-propionic acid;
 rac-2-But-3-enyloxy-3-{1-(5-methyl-2-o-tolyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;
 rac-2-But-3-enyloxy-3-{1-[2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;
 rac-2-But-3-enyloxy-3-{1-[2-(2-chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid; and
 rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{2-methyl-1-[2-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-ethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid.

37. The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{2-methyl-1-[3-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-oxazol-4-yl)-propyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;
 rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{4-methyl-1-[5-methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;
 rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-fluoro-3-methyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-4-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;
 rac-3-{1-[2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-4-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;
 rac-3-{1-[2-(3,5-Dimethoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-4-methyl-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;
 rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[4-methyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-thiazol-5-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-propionic acid;
 (Z)-3-{1-[2-(2-Chloro-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl}-2-ethoxy-acrylic acid;
 rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-6-yl}-propionic acid;
 rac-3-{1-[2-(3,5-Dimethoxy-phenyl)-5-methyl-oxazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-6-yl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid; and

rac-2-Ethoxy-3-{1-[2-(4-isopropyl-phenyl)-thiazol-4-ylmethyl]-1H-indol-6-yl}-propionic acid.

38. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound in accordance with claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a therapeutically inert carrier.

39. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 38 further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of orlistat.

40. A method for the treatment of non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus in a patient in need of treatment, comprising administering to said patient from about 0.1 mg to about 1000 mg per day of a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

41. The method according to claim 40, wherein said compound or salt thereof is administered in an amount of from about 1 mg to about 100 mg per day.

42. The method according to claim 40, further comprising administering to said patient from 60 mg to 720 mg orlistat per day.